IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-3, 6, 11-13 and 15-17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 4, 14, and 18 and add Claims 19 and 20 as follows.

1.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating, by using a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image; and

selection means for selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a user who inputs a password; and

control means for controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of said discrimination means,

~~wherein said discrimination means executes at least a discrimination process for discriminating whether or not specific digital watermark information is embedded in the image data~~.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said discrimination means executes at least a discrimination process for discriminating similarity between a feature obtained from the image data, and a feature of a specific image which is set in advance.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein an order of the plurality of different discrimination processes executed by said discrimination means can be set.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when it is determined in at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes that an input image is a specific image, said discrimination means aborts other discrimination processes.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein only when it is determined in a first discrimination process of the plurality of different discrimination processes that an input image is a specific image, said discrimination means executes a second discrimination process.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when image data inputted by input means is a specific image, said control means executes one of control for inhibiting the image data from being stored in storage means, control for modifying the image data and storing the modified image data in the storage means, control for erasing the image data temporarily stored in the storage means, and control for modifying the image data temporarily stored in the storage means and re-storing the modified image data in the storage means.

11.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating, by using a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image; and

a selecting step of selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a user who inputs a password; and

a control step of controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of the discrimination step,

~~wherein the discrimination step includes the step of executing at least a discrimination process for discriminating whether or not specific digital watermark information is embedded in the image data~~.

15.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory that stores an image processing program which can process a specific image,

said image processing program including:

a program code of a discrimination step of discriminating, by using a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image; and

a program code of a selecting step for selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a user who inputs a password; and

a program code of a control step of controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of the discrimination step,

~~wherein the program code of the discrimination step includes at least a discrimination process program code for discriminating whether or not specific digital watermark information is embedded in the image data.~~

19. (New) An image processing method comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating using, a plurality of different discrimination processes, whether or not image data is a specific image;

a control step of controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of said discrimination step

wherein in said discrimination step, the plurality of different discrimination processes include at least one process implemented by hardware and at least one process implemented by software.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the discrimination process implemented by software is a process for detecting a digital watermark.